NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
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JOSEPH KUN

KOREA: SEOUL PUSHING REUNIFICATION TALKS

ANNCR:

SOUTH KOREA HAS CALLED FOR THE RESUMPTION OF REUNIFICATION TALKS WITH THE NORTH, AS WE HEAR IN THIS BACKGROUND REPORT BY VOA'S JOSEPH KUN.

VOICE:

THE KOREAN REUNIFICATION TALKS WERE INITIATED IN 1972, BUT HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED NOW FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. LAST MONTH, CHANG KI YONG, SOUTH KOREA'S ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH-SOUTH COORDINATION COMMITTEE CALLED UPON HIS COUNTERPART IN NORTH KOREA TO HELP BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN THE TALKS AND TO BEGIN IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS.

THE ISSUES INVOLVED ARE DEEP AND COMPLEX. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS GIVEN THE JAPANESE NEWSPAPER, "MAINICHI SHIMBUN," LAST NOVEMBER, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO KOREAN STATES OUTLINED THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON HOW TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN THE REUNIFICATION TALKS. NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM II-SUNG MAINTAINS THAT IN ORDER TO REOPEN THE DIALOGUE, SOUTH KOREA MUST CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT KIM ACCUSED THE SEOUL GOVERNMENT OF NOT OBSERVING THE SPIRIT OF THE 1972 AGREEMENT, WHICH PAVED THE WAY FOR THE REUNIFICATION TALKS, AND HE DEMANDED THE ABOLITION OF ALL ANTI-COMMUNIST LAWS IN THE SOUTH. THE NORTH KOREAN LEADER ALSO CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA... A MOVE THAT IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

PYONGYANG HAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT A SUPREME NATIONAL COUNCIL BE FORMED COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENTS. THE COUNCIL WOULD CONDUCT EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES AS A SINGLE STATE PENDING FINAL REUNIFICATION. THE NORTH KOREAN PLAN WAS UNVEILED IN 1973 IN RESPONSE TO A PROPOSAL BY SOUTH KOREA FOR A NORTH-SOUTH NON-AGGRESSION PACT AND DUAL REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE, IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH "MAINICHI," CHARGED THAT PYONGYANG'S PRE-CONDITIONS FOR REUNIFICATION CONSTITUTE A GROSS INTERFERENCE IN SOUTH KOREA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN GENERAL, PRESIDENT PARK PREFERS TO SOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAN STATES GRADUALLY...TO CONCENTRATE ON ISSUES OF LESSER IMPORTANCE SUCH AS THE REUNION OF FAMILY MEMBERS SEPARATED WHEN KOREA WAS DIVIDED.

SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS ARE COMPLICATED BY THREE DECADES OF HOSTILITY AND MUTUAL DISTRUST. BUT MOST POLITICAL ANALYSTS AGREE THAT WHAT'S NEEDED AT THIS POINT IS A PROPER ATMOSPHERE FROM WHICH A SERIOUS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION CAN ENSUE.

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